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COMPLETED

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

ORIGINAL

CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA

COLLETON COUNTY

APRIL 17, 1987

Federal Emergency Management Agency

COMMUNITY NUMBER - 450058

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NOTICE TO
FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY USERS

Communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) have established repositories of flood hazard data for floodplain management and flood insurance purposes. This Flood Insurance Study (FIS) may not contain all data available within the repository. It is advisable to contact the community repository for any additional data.

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FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

CITY OF WALTERBORO, COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Study

This Flood Insurance Study investigates the existence and severity of flood hazards in the City of Walterboro, Colleton County, South Carolina, and aids in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. This study has developed flood risk data for various areas of the community that will be used to establish actuarial flood insurance rates and assist the community in its efforts to promote sound floodplain management. Minimum floodplain management requirements for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations at 44 CFR, 60.3.

In some states or communities, floodplain management criteria or regulations may exist that are more restrictive or comprehensive than the minimum Federal requirements. In such cases, the more restrictive criteria take precedence and the state (or other jurisdictional agency) will be able to explain them.

1.2 Authority and Acknowledgments

The sources of authority for this Flood Insurance Study are the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

The hydrologic and hydraulic analyses for this study were performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Charleston District (the Study Contractor) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), under Inter-Agency Agreement No. EMW-84-E-1506, Project Order No. 1, Amendment No. 4. This study was completed in December 1984.

1.3 Coordination

Streams requiring detailed study were identified at a meeting attended by representatives of the Study Contractor, FEMA, and the City of Walterboro on July 28, 1983. Various state, Federal, and local agencies were contacted to obtain existing data and previously published flood information. An announcement of the initiation of the study and a request for flooding information was published in February 1984 in a public notice in "The News and Courier," Charleston, South Carolina.

On May 28, 1986, the results of this Flood Insurance Study were reviewed and accepted at a final coordination meeting attended by representatives of the Study Contractor, FEMA, and the community.

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2.0 ~~AREA STUDIED~~

2.1 Scope of Study

This Flood Insurance Study covers the incorporated area of the City of Walterboro, Colleton County, South Carolina. The area of study is shown on the Vicinity Map (Figure 1).

Flooding caused by overflow of Great Swamp and Ireland Creek was studied in detail within the community.

The areas studied were selected with priority given to all known flood hazard areas and areas of projected development or proposed construction through December 1989. The scope and methods of study were proposed to and agreed upon by FEMA and the City of Walterboro.

2.2 Community Description

The City of Walterboro is located in the southern portion of South Carolina and is completely surrounded by the unincorporated areas of Colleton County. The total land area within the incorporated area is 3.9 square miles. The city is served primarily by U.S. Route 17. The 1980 population was reported to be 6,209, a decrease from the 1970 population of 6,257 (Reference 1).

The topographic features and hydrologic characteristics of the study area are typical of the Coastal Plain physiographic region of South Carolina. Natural ground elevations in Walterboro range from approximately 20 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD) to 100 feet NGVD. The following paragraph describes the streams covered in this study.

Great Swamp flows southerly for about 27 miles from its headwaters to the point where it becomes the Ashepoo River near Ritter, South Carolina. The detailed study of this stream includes a 4.7-mile reach along the southwestern portion of the City of Walterboro. Ireland Creek, a tributary of Great Swamp, flows southwesterly for a distance of about 17 miles to its confluence with Great Swamp near Walterboro.

Soils in Walterboro are generally excessively drained to moderately well-drained in upland areas and moderately well-drained to very poorly drained in low areas and depressions around streams. In creek bottoms, soils generally consist of alluvial sands and silts blanketed with finer (clay) soils with local deposits of sands and gravels.

The climate of southern South Carolina is temperate. The mean annual temperature is approximately 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The lowest mean temperature is recorded in January and the highest in July. The average annual precipitation for the region is 50.2 inches. The precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, but approximately 60 percent of the annual rainfall can be expected to occur between April and September (Reference 2).

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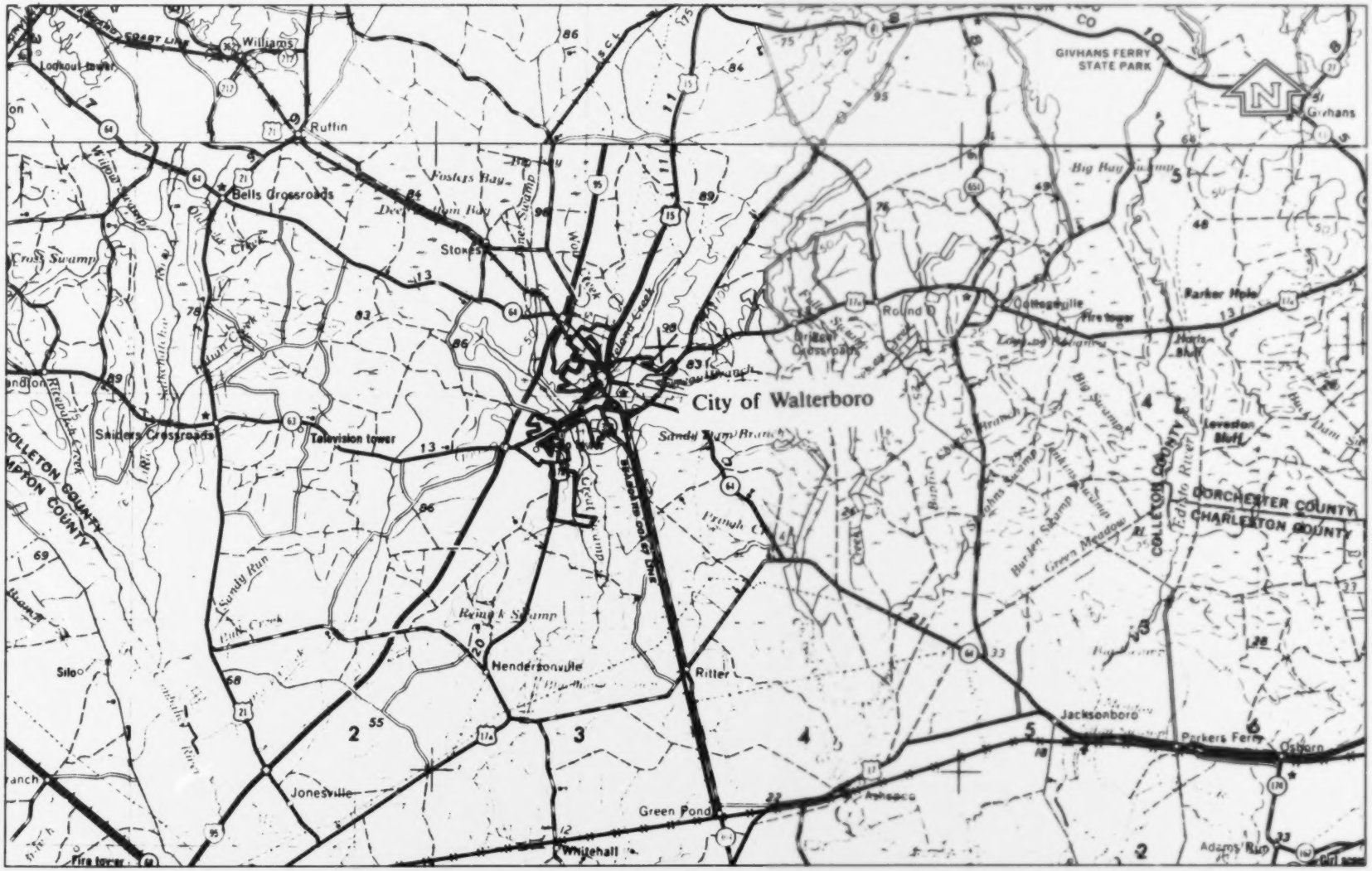

FIGURE 1

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CITY OF WALTERBORO, SC

(COLLETON CO.)

APPROXIMATE SCALE

4 0 4 8 12 MILES

VICINITY MAP

The drainage area of Great Swamp at U.S. Route 17A is 63.5 square miles. Ireland Creek has a drainage area of 43 square miles. This study covers a 5.5-mile reach from the mouth to Stephens Road.

2.3 Principal Flood Problems

Portions of Walterboro are subject to periodic flooding. The principal result is the flooding of a shopping center, commercial establishments, lawns, and parking lots, with the resulting loss of topsoil and a deposit of mud, filth, and refuse. Street and highway travel is disrupted, which causes the temporary loss of police, fire, and medical protection.

Significant floods affecting Walterboro have occurred in 1949, 1959, and 1967. Of these, the July 1959 flood from tropical storm Cindy and the September 1959 flood from Hurricane Gracie, which caused widespread flash flooding, were among the most severe. No stream gage records are available for these events; however, rainfall information obtained in the region indicates that the precipitation which caused the July 1959 flood was approximately a 50-year frequency rainfall. No serious damage or loss of life from stream flooding was reported.

2.4 Flood Protection Measures

Known flood protection measures in the basin include some areas where localized channel improvements have been designed to reduce some flooding and flood damages.

3.0 ENGINEERING METHODS

For the flooding sources studied in detail in the community, standard hydrologic and hydraulic study methods were used to determine the flood hazard data required for this study. Flood events of a magnitude that are expected to be equaled or exceeded once on the average during any 10-, 50-, 100-, or 500-year period (recurrence interval) have been selected as having special significance for floodplain management and for flood insurance rates. These events, commonly termed the 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year floods, have a 10-, 2-, 1-, and 0.2-percent chance, respectively, of being equaled or exceeded during any year. Although the recurrence interval represents the long-term average period between floods of a specific magnitude, rare floods could occur at short intervals or even within the same year. The risk of experiencing a rare flood increases when periods greater than 1 year are considered. For example, the risk of having a flood that equals or exceeds the 100-year flood (1-percent chance of annual exceedence) in any 50-year period is approximately 40 percent (4 in 10), and, for any 90-year period, the risk increases to approximately 60 percent (6 in 10). The analyses reported herein reflect flooding potentials based on conditions existing in the community at the time of completion of this study. Maps and flood elevations will be amended periodically to reflect future changes.

3.1 Hydrologic Analyses

Hydrologic analyses were carried out to establish the peak discharge-frequency relationships for each riverine flooding source studied in detail affecting the community.

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Since stream gage data were not available for streams in the study area, a rainfall-runoff model utilizing unit-hydrograph techniques was used to simulate hydrologic conditions in the area. The HEC-1 computer program (Reference 3) was used in this analysis, with various unit hydrograph parameters computed using topographic maps of the basin. Rainfall values for storms of 10-, 50-, and 100-year recurrence interval storms were taken from Technical Paper No. 40 (Reference 4) and applied to this unit hydrograph to calculate 10-, 50-, and 100-year recurrence interval discharges at selected points along the studied streams. Discharges for the 500-year flood were determined by an extrapolation of discharge-frequency curves of the computed flows for storms of the above-mentioned frequencies.

Peak discharge-drainage area relationships for the 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year floods of each flooding source studied in detail in the community are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF DISCHARGES

FLOODING SOURCE AND LOCATION	DRAINAGE AREA (SQ MILES)	PEAK DISCHARGE (CFS) 10-YEAR	50-YEAR	100-YEAR	500-YEAR
GREAT SWAMP					
just upstream of U.S. Route 17A	63.5	3,213	4,398	5,135	6,600
IRELAND CREEK					
just upstream of U.S. Route 17A	43.1	3,166	4,336	5,063	6,450
just upstream of U.S. Route 15	40.6	3,010	4,160	4,830	6,180

3.2 Hydraulic Analyses

Analyses of the hydraulic characteristics of flooding from the sources studied were carried out to provide estimates of the elevations of floods of the selected recurrence intervals.

Cross sections were compiled by photogrammetric methods and field surveys, and were located at close intervals above and below bridges in order to compute the backwater effects of these structures.

Locations of selected cross sections used in the hydraulic analyses are shown on the Flood Profiles. For stream segments for which a floodway was computed (Section 4.2), selected cross-section locations are also shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

Roughness factors (Manning's "n") used in the hydraulic computations were determined on the basis of characteristics of historical floods and existing floodplain conditions. The channel "n" value for the streams ranged from 0.028 to 0.070, and the overbank "n" values ranged from 0.050 to 0.140.

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The results of the hydrologic analyses were used along with basin characteristics and structural data to develop HEC-2 step-backwater hydraulic models (Reference 5) for each stream to determine elevations of floods of selected recurrence intervals. Starting water-surface elevations for the streams studied by detailed methods were determined using the slope-area method.

Flood profiles were drawn showing the computed water-surface elevations for floods of the selected recurrence intervals. In cases where the 50- and 100-year flood elevations are close together, due to limitations of the profile scale, only the 100-year profile has been shown.

The hydraulic analyses for this study are based only on the effects of unobstructed flow. The flood elevations shown on the profiles are thus considered valid only if hydraulic structures remain unobstructed, operate properly, and do not fail.

All elevations are referenced to the NGVD. Elevation reference marks used in this study are shown on the map and described in the exhibit labeled Elevation Reference Marks.

4.0 FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

The National Flood Insurance Program encourages state and local governments to adopt sound floodplain management programs. Therefore, each Flood Insurance Study provides 100-year flood elevations and delineations of the 100- and 500-year floodplain boundaries and 100-year floodway to assist communities in developing floodplain management measures.

4.1 Floodplain Boundaries

To provide a national standard without regional discrimination, the 1-percent annual chance (100-year) flood has been adopted by FEMA as the base flood for floodplain management purposes. The 0.2-percent annual chance (500-year) flood is employed to indicate additional areas of flood risk in the community. For each stream studied in detail, the 100- and 500-year floodplain boundaries have been delineated using the flood elevations determined at each cross section. Between cross sections, the boundaries were interpolated using photogrammetric topographic maps at a scale of 1:2400 with a contour interval of 2 feet (Reference 6).

The 100- and 500-year floodplain boundaries are shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map. On this map, the 100-year floodplain boundary corresponds to the boundary of the areas of special flood hazards (Zones A, AE, AH, AO, A99, V, and VE) and the 500-year floodplain boundary corresponds to the boundary of areas of moderate flood hazards. In cases where the 100- and 500-year floodplain boundaries are close together, only the 100-year floodplain boundary has been shown. Small areas within the floodplain boundaries may lie above the flood elevations but cannot be shown due to limitations of the map scale and/or lack of detailed topographic data.

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4.2 Floodways

Encroachment on floodplains, such as structures and fill, reduces the flood-carrying capacity, increases the flood heights and velocities, and increases flood hazards in areas beyond the encroachment itself. One aspect of floodplain management involves balancing the economic gain from floodplain development against the resulting increase in flood hazard. For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, a floodway is used as a tool to assist local communities in this aspect of floodplain management. Under this concept, the area of the 100-year floodplain is divided into a floodway and a floodway fringe. The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 100-year flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. Minimum Federal standards limit such increases to 1.0 foot, provided that hazardous velocities are not produced. The floodways in this study are presented to local agencies as minimum standards that can be adopted directly or that can be used as a basis for additional floodway studies.

The floodways presented in this study were computed for certain stream segments on the basis of equal conveyance reduction from each side of the floodplain. Floodway widths were computed at cross sections. Between cross sections, the floodway boundaries were interpolated. The results of the floodway computations are tabulated for selected cross sections and are shown in Table 2, Floodway Data. The computed floodways are shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map. In cases where the floodway and the 100-year floodplain boundaries are either close together or collinear, only the floodway boundary is shown. Portions of the floodways for Great Swamp and Ireland Creek lie outside the corporate limits.

The area between the floodway and the 100-year floodplain boundaries is termed the floodway fringe. The floodway fringe encompasses the portion of the floodplain that could be completely obstructed without increasing the water-surface elevation of the 100-year flood by more than 1.0 foot at any point. Typical relationships between the floodway and the floodway fringe and their significance to floodplain development are shown in Figure 2.

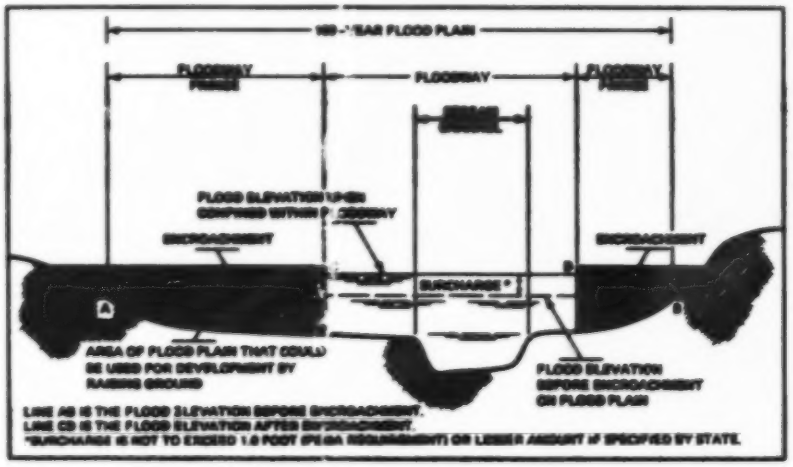
100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN
FLOODWAY FRINGE
FLOODWAY
FLOODWAY FRINGE
ENCROACHMENT
ENCROACHMENT
SURCHARGE*
AREA OF FLOOD PLAIN THAT COULD BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT BY RAISING GROUND
FLOOD ELEVATION BEFORE ENCROACHMENT ON FLOOD PLAIN
LINE AB IS THE FLOOD ELEVATION BEFORE ENCROACHMENT.
LINE CD IS THE FLOOD ELEVATION AFTER ENCROACHMENT.
*SURCHARGE IS NOT TO EXCEED 1.0 FOOT (FEMA REQUIREMENT) OR LESSER AMOUNT IF SPECIFIED BY STATE.

FIGURE 2 - Floodway Schematic

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FLOODING SOURCE		FLOODWAY			BASE FLOOD WATER SURFACE ELEVATION			
CROSS SECTION	DISTANCE[1]	WIDTH (FEET)	SECTION AREA (SQ. FEET)	MEAN VELOCITY (FEET/SEC.)	REGULATORY (FEET NGVD)	WITHOUT FLOODWAY (FEET NGVD)	WITH FLOODWAY (FEET NGVD)	INCREASE (FEET)
GREAT SWAMP								
A	57,560	2224[2]	12,119	0.8	27.5	27.5	28.4	0.9
B	63,950	1870[3]	10,005	1.0	32.1	32.1	33.0	0.9
C	64,100	2023[3]	15,102	0.6	34.2	34.2	35.1	0.9
IRELAND CREEK								
A	150	1870[3]	10,005	1.0	32.1	32.1	33.0	0.9
B	325	2023[3]	15,102	0.6	34.2	34.2	35.1	0.9
C	3410	937[2]	5026	1.0	34.9	34.9	35.9	1.0
D	5510	1036[2]	6460	0.8	36.3	36.3	37.2	0.9
E	7395	780	5241	0.9	37.3	37.3	38.2	0.9
F	7836	268	2151	2.2	37.5	37.5	38.4	0.9
G	8565	675	3642	1.3	38.1	38.1	39.1	1.0
H	9150	438	2175	2.2	38.9	38.9	39.9	1.0
I	9600	100	796	6.1	39.6	39.6	40.5	0.9
J	9780	127	1252	3.9	40.9	40.9	41.6	0.7
K	12,400	937	7917	0.6	42.6	42.6	43.5	0.9
L	13,000	908	7596	0.6	42.7	42.7	43.6	0.9

[1]FEET ABOVE MOUTH
[2]THIS WIDTH EXTENDS BEYOND CORPORATE LIMITS
[3]COMBINED FLOODWAY WIDTH OF GREAT SWAMP AND IRELAND CREEK

TABLE 2

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CITY OF WALTERBORO, SC
(COLLETON CO.)

FLOODWAY DATA

GREAT SWAMP—IRELAND CREEK

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5.0 INSURANCE APPLICATION

For flood insurance rating purposes, flood insurance zone designations are assigned to a community based on the results of the engineering analyses. These zones are as follows:

Zone AE

Zone AE is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to the 100-year floodplains that are determined in the Flood Insurance Study by detailed methods. Whole-foot base flood elevations derived from the detailed hydraulic analyses are shown at selected intervals within this zone.

Zone X

Zone X is the flood insurance rate zone that corresponds to areas outside the 500-year floodplain, areas within the 500-year floodplain, areas of 100-year flooding where average depths are less than 1 foot, areas of 100-year flooding where the contributing drainage area is less than 1 square mile, and areas protected from the 100-year flood by levees. No base flood elevations or depths are shown within this zone.

6.0 FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

The Flood Insurance Rate Map is designed for flood insurance and floodplain management applications.

For flood insurance applications, the map designates flood insurance rate zones as described in Section 5.0 and, in the 100-year floodplains that were studied by detailed methods, shows selected whole-foot base flood elevations or average depths. Insurance agents use the zones and base flood elevations in conjunction with information on structures and their contents to assign premium rates for flood insurance policies.

For floodplain management applications, the map shows by tints, screens, and symbols the 100- and 500-year floodplains, the floodways, and the locations of selected cross sections used in the hydraulic analyses and floodway computations.

7.0 OTHER STUDIES

A Flood Insurance Study for the Unincorporated Areas of Colleton County (Reference 7) is in progress and is in agreement with this study.

Due to its more detailed analysis, this Flood Insurance Study supersedes the previously printed Flood Hazard Boundary Map for the City of Walterboro (Reference 8).

8.0 LOCATION OF DATA

Information concerning the pertinent data used in the preparation of this study can be obtained by contacting the Natural and Technological Hazards Division, FEMA, 1371 Peachtree Street, NE., Suite 736, Atlanta, Georgia 30309.

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9.0 REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2. ———, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Data Service, Monthly Normals of Temperature, Precipitation, and Heating and Cooling Degree Days 1941 - 1970, South Carolina, National Climatic Center, Asheville, North Carolina, August 1973.

3. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center, HEC-1 Flood Hydrograph Package, Generalized Computer Program, Davis, California, September 1981.

4. National Weather Service, Technical Paper No. 40, Rainfall Atlas of the United States, Washington, D.C., May 1961.

5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center, HEC-2 Water-Surface Profiles Generalized Computer Program, Davis, California, November 1976.

6. Kucera and Associates, Inc., Photogrammetric Maps, Walterboro, South Carolina, Scale 1:2400, Contour Interval 2 feet, October 1984.

7. Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Study, Colleton County, Unincorporated Areas, South Carolina, in progress.

8. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Insurance Administration, Flood Hazard Boundary Map, City of Walterboro, Colleton County, South Carolina, June 1977.

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ELEVATION REFERENCE MARKS

REFERENCE MARK	FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP PANEL	ELEVATION (FEET NGVD)	DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION
1	0005	34.18	chiseled cross cut in top of curb located at southwest center of U.S. Route 17A bridge over Great Swamp
2	0005	38.01	chiseled cross cut in top of curb located at northeast corner of West Washington Street bridge over Ireland Creek
3	0005	38.93	chiseled cross cut in top of curb located at easternmost corner of Forest Hills Road bridge over Ireland Creek
4	0005	42.34	chiseled cross cut in sidewalk located at southeast corner of U.S. Route 15 bridge over Ireland Creek

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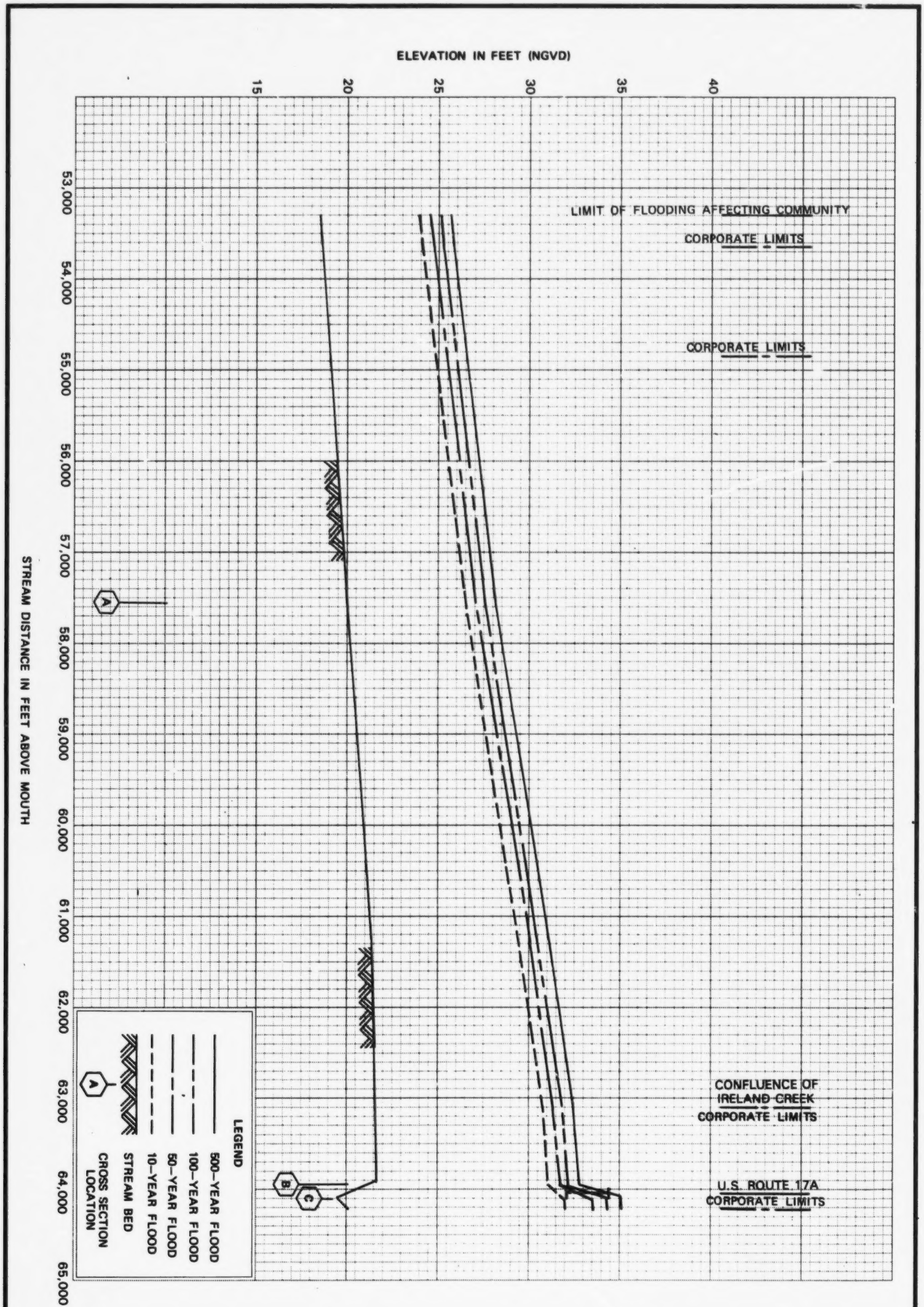

01P	FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY **CITY OF WALTERBORO, SC** (COLLETON CO.)	**FLOOD PROFILES** **GREAT SWAMP**

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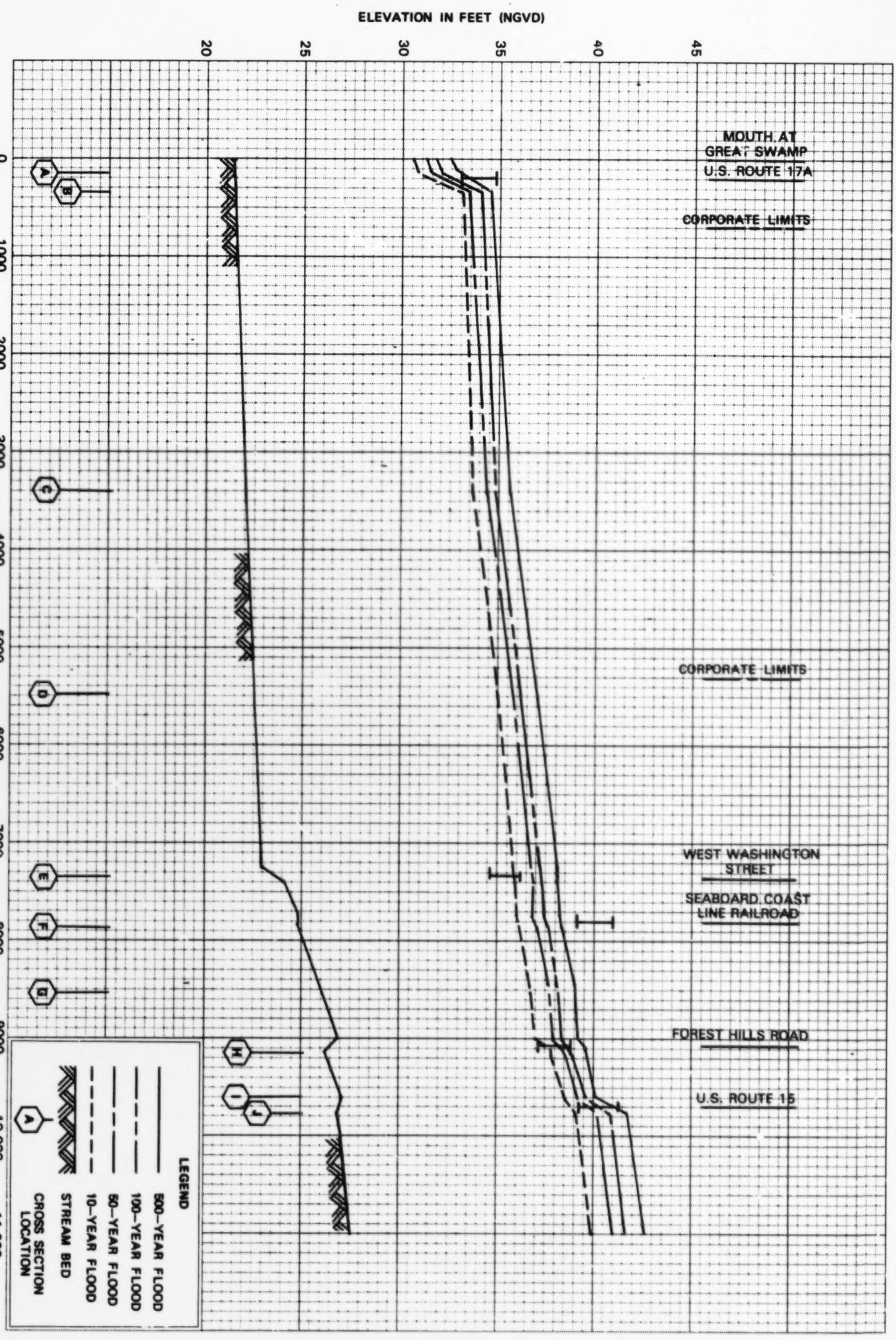
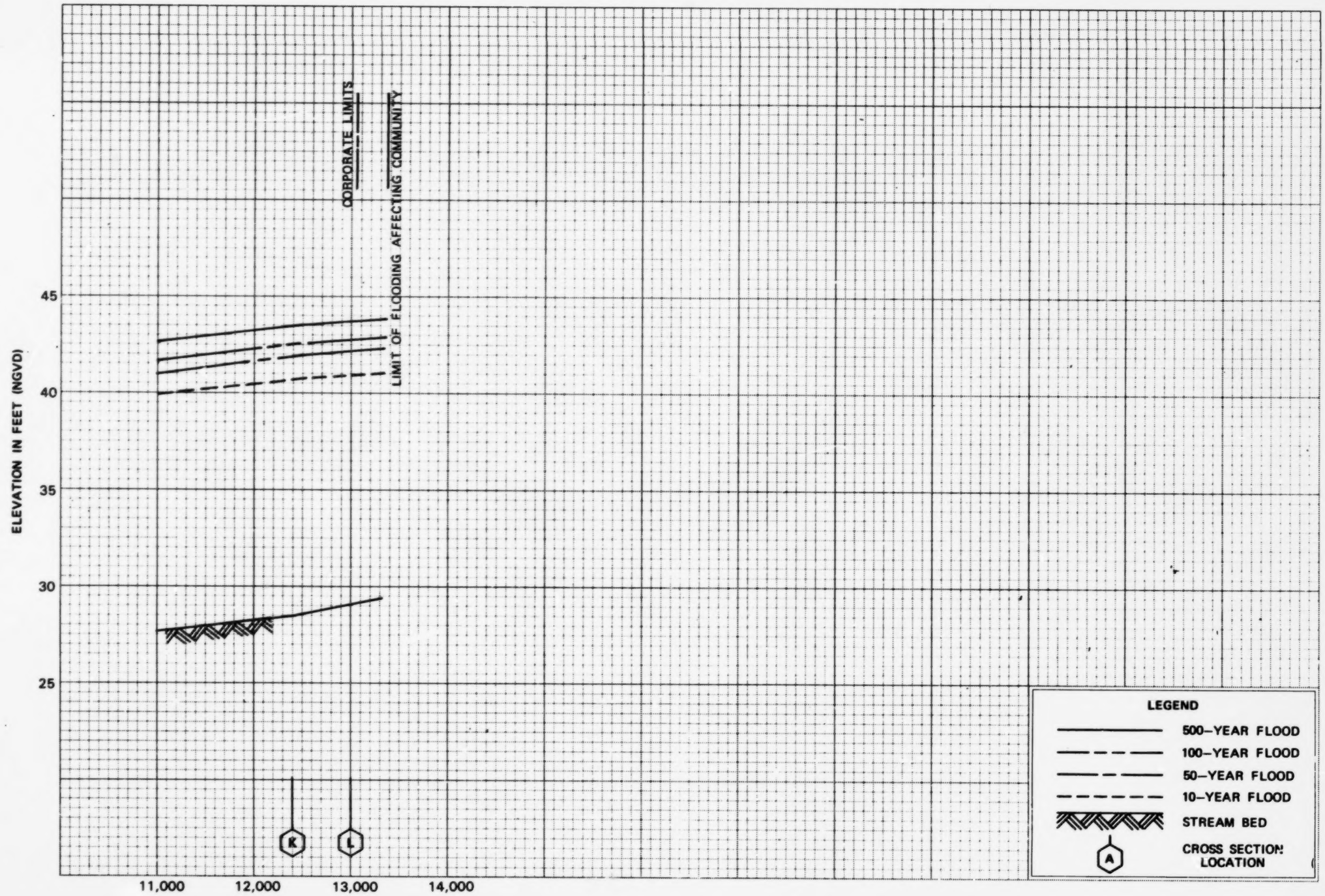


02P	FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY CITY OF WALTERBORO, SC (COLLETON CO.)	FLOOD PROFILES IRELAND CREEK



FLOOD PROFILES

IRELAND CREEK

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CITY OF WALTERBORO, SC

(COLLETON CO.)

03P

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